Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—" Is it not a fact that, on account of the communal Government Order, members of communities not represented in the service have been appointed, and they are the people who are in the lower ranks of the service, and it is people who are in the lower ranks that are to be sent away? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—" All people in the lower ranks of the service are not people designed to be benefited by the communal Government Order.

Mr. F. E. James:—" May I ask the hon. the Finance Member whether, in view of the further saving in stationery charges, he has considered or will consider the possibility of adding to the Finance Committee the name of Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed? (Laughter.) "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—" I do not suppose this question would arise."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—" May I know whether, having regard to the useful work so far rendered by the hon. Member, Mr. James, on the Finance Committee, he will be considered to be a permanent member of the Finance Committee? "

The hon. the President:—" It does not arise."

Formation of Committees of the Council to examine the possibility of retrenchment in general in Government departments.

11-30 a.m. * 392 Q.—Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state whether there is any proposal before the Government to set up independent committees of the Council to examine the possibility of retrenchment in general in each department of Government and to examine in particular the necessity for a number of posts in each cadre, especially in the Revenue, Judicial and Public Works departments?

A.—No.

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—" May I know why the Government think that separate committees are not necessary? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—" I have already stated that the Government do not think it necessary."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—" May I know why, when the Government of India has done what has been asked for in this question and particularly in view of the fact that the present Retrenchment Committee has taken more than five months, the hon. Member thinks that it will not be done more expeditiously by having separate committees? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—" There is no reason to suppose that multiplication of committees will expedite matters at all."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—" May I ask whether the Government is willing to co-opt members who are acquainted with the working of particular departments when questions concerning those departments come up for consideration? "

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The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—"The Government will consider the suggestion."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask if the Government will allow the committees to take evidence from not merely Government officers but also from outside, such as retired officers who are acquainted with the internal working of these departments, as is being done by the Government of India, Sir?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—"It seems to me a matter mainly for the committee to consider."

Abolition of the Board of Revenue and the Survey and Settlement departments.

* 393 *Q.*—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government or the Retrenchment Officer or the Retrenchment Committee have examined the question of the abolition of the Board of Revenue and the Survey and Settlement departments as a measure of retrenchment; and

(*b*) what will be the saving effected by the abolition of the abovesaid two departments?

A.—(*a*) No, but Government are at present examining certain proposals from the Board of Revenue on the subject of reducing the number of survey parties, and it is understood that the Board is considering a scheme for the reduction of expenditure on Settlement. The matter has not yet come before the Retrenchment Committee.

(*b*) The hon. Member will find the information he requires on page 57 of the Civil Budget Estimate.

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I know whether the Government have any specific reasons not to abolish the Revenue Board?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—"Yes, Sir."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I know what, Sir?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—"It will take too long to explain, Sir."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May we have a brief statement, Sir."

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—"The present administration is indispensable."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"I want to know whether the Government received any proposals from the Board of Revenue suggesting the wholesale dismissal of the Central Survey office?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—"I believe not as yet, but I want notice."